

# THE BRIDGE



**Sunday Service Time Change**  
**Join in the Fellowship**  
**Memories**  
**A Poignant Celebration**



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Please note that the next update of the Kirk Register will be in the  
Lent and Christmas edition.

## Change Of Time

### Timing of Sunday Worship at Muthill Parish Church to Change to 10am from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October



With the closure of Trinity Gask Church, the Muthill congregation, at a consultation after the morning service on 1<sup>st</sup> October, approved that the timing of Sunday Worship at Muthill Parish Church should be adjusted from 11.30am to start at 10am.

This new timing will commence with Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023. Please note that the Service on Remembrance

Sunday will, however, be held after the short village laying of wreaths at the War Memorial at 11am.

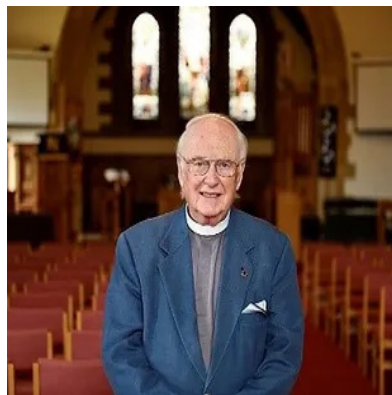




## Message From Iain Paton

Dear Friends at Muthill,

As you may know, the Presbytery appointed me a few months ago to be the Interim Moderator at Muthill with Trinity Gask & Kinkell Churches in succession to Rev. Mairi Perkins. Having been retired from full-time ministry



now for quite some time, I suspect that I would normally have suggested that someone else take on a role like this, but as I have been conducting some of the services since Klaus Buwert left, and feel that I have got to know many in the congregations over the last year or so, I was happy to accept the appointment. I do hope that I can do it justice. I do have another role as the Assistant Minister at Auchterarder Parish Church, but that is, officially, one day each week, so should leave plenty of time for Muthill.

Much of the role of the interim moderator is administrative and involves chairing the Kirk Session, representing the congregation at Presbytery, and ensuring that the services continue as planned. All quite straightforward until Alex Mitchell took unwell. I then realised that not only did Alex organise the services, but conducted the worship himself in about 60% of them. What a huge level of service both Alex and Elizabeth give to the congregation. Hopefully, Alex will receive his surgery soon, but there is likely to be quite a long recovery period before he can get back to his accustomed role in the Church. Meantime, it is good to see them both attending services as often as it is possible for them to manage.

One of the early tasks which came my way was the closure of Trinity Gask and Kinkell Church at the beginning of September. A sincere 'thank you' to the good folk at Muthill who came to support Trinity Gask friends at

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the closing service. Please do hold the members of the congregation there in your prayers at this time. Losing one's church is something that can affect people deeply as I know from personal experience. It is a great joy to see some of the former members there joining the congregation at Muthill and I do hope that you will be ready to give them a very warm welcome if they take that up. We are, after all, part of the one Christian family. The closure of that Church opened up the possibility of changing the time of the Muthill morning service, and it was decided at the recent meeting of the congregation that with effect from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October the Sunday morning service will be at 10.00am. This is mentioned elsewhere in the magazine. As from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October- so don't be late!

As to the future of the congregation at Muthill, that needs thought and prayer. There is a future, though, of that there is no doubt. It is up to us to discern what it is, knowing that it will affect other congregations besides our own one. I am a firm believer that God's guiding hand is firmly in situations like ours and that if we walk in His Spirit, the way will become clear. 'If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit' says Paul in his Letter to the Galatians. So, my friends, let us live the Christian life confidently, looking to a bright and exciting future, as part of a church congregation that works for the good of others and ultimately, for the glory of God!

With every blessing and good wish,

**(Rev) Iain Paton**





## **Join In The Fellowship (Autumn 2023)**

*Muthill Parish Church has a variety of groups through which you can gain new friends, enjoy fellowship and increase your understanding of the Christian Faith. You do not have to wait to be invited. Just tell someone of your interest and you will be made very welcome. A brief coffee after the Sunday worship service may be the right way to start this process, and certainly joining one of the following groups will definitely make you feel a stronger part of the church family.*

### **House Groups:**

There is a list of House Groups associated with Muthill and Crieff available on the noticeboard and on the leaflet stand in the church lobby. There are two village ones, namely The Bible Class is held on every Tuesday morning at 11am in the Bruce Hall of the Church. The second is House Group 2 which meets fortnightly at 7pm in the evening at Sandy Hutchison's house in the village. The Crieff house groups are on the list with names of whom to contact. There are also Inter-Church Gatherings, Christians Together, held twice a year in St Columba's Church, Crieff. Leaflets on these worship gatherings are distributed in church before the date and are certainly worth attending as they are very uplifting.

### **The Guild:**

We have our own Guild in Muthill Parish Church which is part of the Church of Scotland's Guild which, with over 15,000 members, remains one of the largest voluntary organisations in the country. Its motto is "Whose we are and Whom we serve". The Guild welcomes both men and women who accept its aim: that the Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer, and action. Home meetings are held in the Bruce Hall on a Wednesday afternoon starting at 2.30pm. There is a separate item in this edition of the magazine on the autumn programme for 2023.

### **The Singing Group**

This enthusiastic group meets every Thursday evening at 7pm under the leadership of Elizabeth Boyd in the Church for just over one hour and enjoys learning new songs, religious and otherwise. There are around 10-15 in the

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group so it can be a lot of fun! The Group has now prepared a repertoire for performances at Wardside House for the Elderly in the village and a date for some Christmas Carol Singing has already been set with them for 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Book Club:**

A new book club is being established in the autumn 2023 and will meet monthly in one of the church rooms of a morning over coffee. Anyone interested in reading fiction, biographies etc. will be welcome to join. Books will be selected by members of the group. Leaflets on the Group and its starting date will be available on the Church noticeboard in October.

### **Soup and Sandwich Lunch:**

This community outreach is held every Wednesday meeting at 12.30pm. It is a great way for getting to know people in the village and normally attracts around 30 folk. So come along and bring your friends. There is a suggested donation of £3. People attending the lunch can attend from 11am onwards when coffee/tea is available. It is held in the Bruce Hall.

### **Mens Group:**

A new Men's Group, Muthill Men, is to be launched in November 2023. It will start as a coffee chat and catch-up group meeting in the Upper Room lounge of the Church on Wednesdays between 11.00-12.30 hrs so that attendees can then join the soup and sandwich lunch at 12.30 hrs should they wish. After a trial period the group members will be consulted on whether they wish it to morph into something more than chat and fellowship.

### **Scripture Union and Family Services**

These are organised by the Youth Education Committee of the Church and details of their activities are included regularly in The Bridge. Scripture Union meetings are held on a Monday during school term time and family services are held monthly on Sundays before normal church worship. With the time of regular church worship services on a Sunday changing from 11.30am to 10.00 hours arrangements for the family services are under review.

## A Poignant Celebration - Closure Of Trinity Gask Church

The closing service at Trinity Gask Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023 was an important occasion, whilst being one tinged both with sadness for many present as well as joyfulness for the great service that had been given on that site since 1576.



From left to right, Jean Ann Scott Miller, Jean Dawson, Alan Miller with commemorative cake given out to congregation at conclusion of service

The worship was conducted by Rev. Iain Paton, our Interim Moderator, with Rev. John Ferguson, Presbytery Clerk from Perth Presbytery providing a message on behalf of Presbytery. There was also a message from Rev. Alex Mitchell a regular preacher of late there, which was read by Helen-May Bayne, Session Clerk of Muthill Parish Church, in his absence due to ill

health. The readings were done by Jean Dawson and Alan Miller from Trinity Gask Church, both Elders of that Kirk.

The day was blessed with wonderful weather. The sanctuary was beautifully adorned with flowers. There was touches of tradition with a piper playing in the graveyard and the use of the old offering ladles and most importantly, the kirk pews were packed with a congregation of remaining members of Trinity Gask and friends drawn by past association and from members of Muthill Parish church their linked church family.

In a sensitive and uplifting way, Iain led the worship warmly noting the great service that generations from the church had given over the years and saying that it was right we acknowledge this and celebrate it. Using the text "New wine is for fresh wineskins" (St. Mark 2, verse 22) with



Jesus' message on the importance of new wineskins, he reminded the assembled congregation that new times demanded new ways and not to be overpowered by the loss of this church building. The work of the church was in people and not buildings and it should go on in a triumphant manner through the continuing dedicated work of the remaining congregation

working in the new churches that they selected. This overall message was beautifully echoed in the lyrics of the hymns chosen for the service and in the accompanying prayers and messages. Despite the solemnity of the occasion, the singing was lustily given and it must be recorded that it was an uplifting event with a right focus on the future endeavours of the Church. As if underlining this at the conclusion of the formal

worship the congregation was provided with refreshment and wonderful home-baking served by the ladies of the church and there was lots of warm catching up.



Presentation to Jean Dawson



A special mention must be made of Jean Dawson, Session Clerk of Trinity Gask, who rightly received a bouquet of flowers for her great service prior to the commencement of the service. It was preceded by warm words of appreciation from Jean Ann Scott Miller. Our thoughts too lie with the other Elders and members of Trinity Gask who will be going through a period of difficult emotions as they seek a new spiritual home. We thank God for the service of Trinity Gask and wish them joyful and meaningful continued service in His name.

## Church Finances 2023



All of us are aware of how our household finances have changed in recent years and not for the better. The Church in Muthill is no different in that our energy costs will be approx. three times what they were in 2022. We are lucky that we have many generous parishioners who keep our door open to everyone. I refer to those who donate every week through our offering plate as well as those who have standing orders or write cheques

on a regular basis. I am reminded of the parable of the "Widow's Mite" and every donation is very much appreciated.

We have not appealed for any increase in giving for many years, although on counting the Offering on a Sunday, I notice that there is now more paper than coins in it. Thank you!!

If you are able please consider increasing your giving and remember that Gift Aid increases your donation by 25%. With the freezing of tax allowances and some incomes having inflationary increases, more people are drawn into different tax brackets. Gift Aid is a way around this and helps our Church at the same time.

Sandy Bayne (<tel:681435>) is our Gift Aid convener and he will be pleased to help you, as I will.

**Willie Bell** (<tel:681362>)



## The Guild

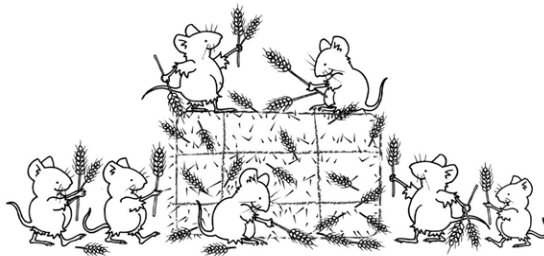


Under its strategy of “Looking Forward in Faith”, this year’s theme (2022-2023) for the Guild is *Wee Seeds, Big Trees*. Muthill Parish Church Guild will be restarting its meetings after the summer recess with a visit from the Guild’s National Convener of 2022-2023, Helen Eckford, who will be speaking on her recent visit to Malawi. This will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Bruce Hall starting at 2.30pm.

This will be followed on 15<sup>th</sup> November with a joint meeting in Crieff when the speaker will be David Ferguson and his subject will be “History of Crieff”. Then on 22<sup>nd</sup> November there will be further meeting in Crieff when the speaker will be Moira Turnbull on the subject “Christmas Flowers”. Both the November meetings will be held in the St Andrews Hall, Crieff, starting at 2.30pm.

The Guild Christmas Party will be on 13<sup>th</sup> December in Muthill Parish Church.

Everyone is welcome, both men and women.



## New Outreaches

A survey conducted as part of the village consultation on proposals for a new village Community Centre and Muthill Community Action Plan 2024-2028 contained an interesting response from new residents in our village. Whilst they were generally positive about the village, they can find it difficult to integrate.



It is part of Muthill Parish Church's mission statement that it aims to be at the heart and soul of the village. The regular Wednesday's soup and sandwich lunches during the autumn, winter and spring seasons are an important and successful initiative to engage and serve our village but perhaps this can go much wider. Consideration of appointing some form family/youth worker in the absence of an incumbent minister is one avenue of thought that the Kirk Session is pursuing as we need to solve the problem of a shortage of younger families in the congregation and the verve they generally bring with them. For those seeking more fellowship and faith learning opportunities our Guild and the House Groups already provide a ready welcome for those who feel part of the church family. Beyond this, however, there may be people of peace who may want to enquire further and, therefore, creating comfortable opportunities for such people to do so remains important.

Two initiatives in this area that we are currently exploring are the idea of a Book Club and a Men's Club or Gathering. Neither of these ideas are new. Muthill used to have an active book club and men's gatherings in different forms have been tried. Auchterarder and Comrie have active Men's Sheds. We are seeing the Book Club as a monthly get-together and Men's group as a weekly gathering initially focusing on fellowship and chat but possibly morphing into something bigger and bolder if enthusiasm can be engendered. Both outreaches will involve canvassing of potential audiences, then experimentation and they will certainly require enthusiasm and active support from within the church family. Whether they succeed, time will tell but at the very least they will present feedback



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on which we can more easily develop our mission and outreaches into the community.

The Kirk Session have given their approval and work is already proceeding with a view to launching both during this autumn 2023. If you want to help in the organisation or simply come along then please let it be known. Your village contacts of people who might be interested in participating could be very important. Further details publicising the plans are contained in separate adverts in this magazine.



The new Men's Group at Muthill Parish Church, Muthill Men, will start meeting in the Upper Room of the Church building every week from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at 11am.

The Group will initially meet simply for fellowship over coffee/ tea and then those who wish can join the Soup and Sandwich lunch downstairs in the Bruce Hall at 12.30pm.

Once the group has settled into regular meetings it will consider whether it will want to do other activities such as moving towards a Men's Shed concept. In the meantime, why not come along for a chat and get to know fellow Muthill village men.

You will be most welcome!

## Memories

A few weeks ago our House Group had a BBQ. We were blessed with a perfect day weather wise. It was warm and sunny. The company was great.



This made me start thinking about memories and how we have a natural inclination to recall special experiences in our lives and who hasn't enjoyed flicking through old photographs of times gone by. I am of an age now where many of these

photographic memories are in real photographs rather than on my phone or laptop and some even date back to my early childhood and to my family decades before that. It's such fun flicking through old albums and coming across photos that tell of a bygone people or stories that you had forgotten about. They engender some deep feelings of warmth or cringe. Yep, not all of us enjoy having our photographs taken and yet most of us instinctively do it without thinking too much about it. I guess because deep down we all have some interest in posterity.



I happened to be reviewing some old photos the other week trying to get the few albums I still retain into some order when I came across some special ones of my parents and early experiences that we had together. Several I had completely forgotten about but looking at an old photo and

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reminiscing brought some very happy memories to the fore and some not so happy ones of people who had passed on but who had been special and influential in my life. They sparked off memories of guidance they had given, phrases they had used and things like their sense of humour, the twinkle in their eye and their sense of clothes' fashion. Isn't it amazing how much our fashions change through the different seasons of our lives and how good and bad you looked at different times.



I used to love wearing my kilt. I loved the trends in different styles of trousers and hairstyles and even experimented with cowboy boots. Most of us have probably gone through these phases and looking back at particular moments in our lives and reflecting on them probably raises mixed emotions for each one of us. For me, most of the events that fill my albums have been largely pleasing. They are, not surprisingly, mainly of family and friends with some animals and a few views that I found breath-taking at the time. I have, however, never been that successful with the latter. Nature can never be captured perfectly in a photograph.

I hope that you too have some such albums or easily accessible records as strangely they become more important in your life as you get older. One such photo for me was a baby photo when I used to tell people when I was very young, "That was when I was a girl" as my hair was amazingly curly and long. I also came across one of my student days with a dear friend on my much valued Vespa Scooter. That one prompted me to start investigating his whereabouts and, great to record, we have once again met up after some 47 years of no contact. Yes, photos and reminiscing over them can be so good for you and I hope you find the same. Perhaps this will give you the incentive to get yours in order. You never know when you will want to flick through and reminisce.



**Sandy Hutchison**

## God And The Arts

*Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of art. You can see more images described by googling 'wall paintings of Pompeii'. The one below is taken from the Naples National Archaeological Museum.*

### **'He gave us eyes to see them': Wall Painting of Pompeii**



Each edition we have explored how art celebrates the wonder of our world – the seasons, the elements, animals and fish, flowers and fruit. They manifest the glory of God the creator. Irenaeus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> century theologian, went further and wrote that 'the glory of God is a living person.' He was echoing Psalm 8: 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them...you have crowned them and put all things under their feet.' Yes, the universe teaches of God

the creator, but in becoming one of us, the Son of God has put human beings above all Creation.

The nobility of that vision is captured in this 1<sup>st</sup> century wall painting from Pompeii showing Neo and his wife. They lived at a time when St Paul was preaching and the gospels were being written. We don't know if those events made an impact on their lives. But we do know that St Paul was executed around AD67, and just twelve years later this couple were victims of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Their almond-shaped eyes are like windows into their souls. We sense the beauty, but also the fragility. They tell us that life is a gift to be cherished precisely because it is so easily taken from us. Neo's intense eyes look at us, while his wife looks beyond into the distance. She has the eyes of hopes and dreams that were cruelly shattered by the volcano.

Living men and women, like this couple, are tokens of the wonder of creation, but they also tell us of the transience of that very gift of life. 'Where can we place our hope?' we ask ourselves. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls tell us that the end of life here is a door opening into a greater glory and a brighter light. There is wonder and beauty in life here, and with the eyes of faith we can look beyond to glimpse the wonder of eternity.

**Michael Burgess**

## Burtinshaw Bequest

As most of you know, the Session administers the above Trust Fund which is for the benefit of the less fortunate of our Parish. In past years we have distributed coal, electricity stamps and cheques to certain individuals, mostly those on the Christmas List run by James Thomson. This has been instigated by severe winters in the main but last year we felt that the cost of energy had risen by a substantial margin and although this cost was the same for everyone it was more of a burden on the more senior of our people. Energy costs are still much higher than they were two years ago and in addition to central government help, we will send out cheques of £50 to recipients before Christmas.



This is less than last year but the trustees can only distribute the income garnered by the fund and we need to recover some of the capital that was spent last year. If you feel that you can manage with your own resources and do not wish to receive this cheque then please contact me on 681362 and I will attend to your wish.

Willie Bell (Finance Convener)

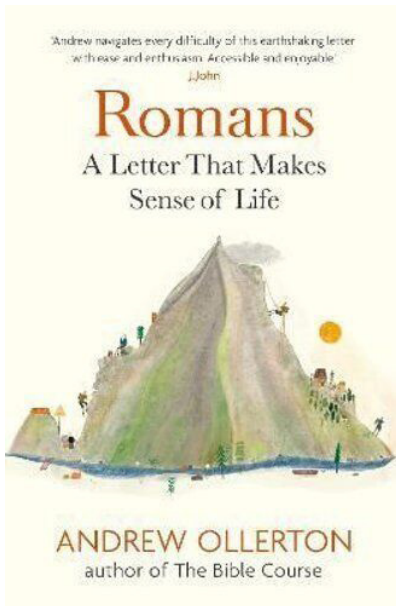




## Understanding Romans

In the last edition of the magazine, I highlighted the availability of a new course on Paul's Letter to the Romans, and now I am able to report on the accompanying book which goes with the course and which I decided to purchase after viewing some of the videos that go with the course. I have got to say that this has helped me considerably as I have to admit that

I have always found some passages of in Paul's Letter difficult. Even with Bible commentaries I have often found myself confused and unable to get a clear picture of what Paul is meaning and how I should relate it to my own life.



With this new book by Dr Andrew Ollerton, I can at last say I am so much clearer and I must commend him for his way of breaking down the Letter into manageable steps to understand. We are always recommended to read the Bible in its original context and then ask the question "what does it mean to me in today's world?". Ollerton's analysis is excellent, especially for the simpler enquirer.

I particularly like his non-academic approach and his use of frequent illustrations from life today. With this I more readily discovered that many passages that I had found difficult in the past were much easier to comprehend and relate to my own life.

Well known commentators always say that Romans is probably the best exposition of the Christian Faith as Paul had profound experience from his own conversion and was clearly an amazing guy with great insight. He is also probably the strongest Christian missionary of all time. There are also so many similarities in the Roman culture of Paul's day with today's western culture and how, without strength of faith, we can so easily succumb to

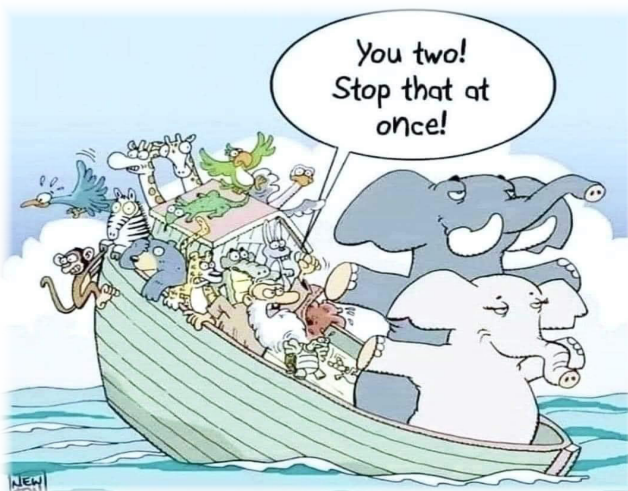
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becoming what Ollerton describes as “cultural tourists” rather evangelists like Paul seeking for change. This, let’s face it, is surely one reason why the church is declining today. Ollerton’s analysis brings this clearly to the fore and I love the questions he leaves you with at the end of each section which really test how much you have taken in and understood.

If you get the chance to obtain the book, which is available from the Bible Society, I hope that you find the same as I have. It is so good to find a modern Christian writer of his standing who uses commentary from his own life and faith to provide a way through Paul’s Letter in such an easily understandable and convincing way.

I should further add in conclusion that having read Romans as House Group 2, resorting to read it alongside The Message translation, we are about to use the Bible Society course as a further means of properly understanding this important Letter. If you think you might like to join us then please speak to me or Elaine Wallace. Even if we have started the study with its video sessions by the time you read this, we will be able to provide you with copies to catch up. We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday evenings and have a lot of fun and fellowship as well as hopefully deepening our understanding of our faith.

**Sandy Hutchison**



## God And The Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### God of the mountains, God of the valleys



*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? (Job 38:4–7, 14, 16)*

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to You...? Why have You made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job’s question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job’s attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God’s creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

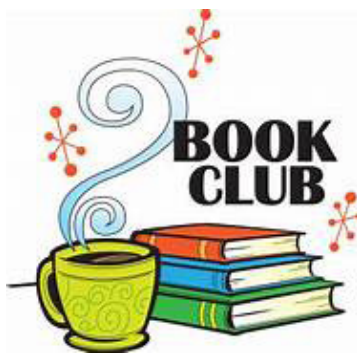
The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth’s rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

*This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.*

**Ruth Bancewicz**

□ We are setting up a Book Discussion Group (MPC Book Club), which will select fiction, biographies etc. and then meet once a month to share each other's views of what has been read. Each member will select a book in turn and it will be up to each individual in the group to make their own purchase or obtain a downloaded Kindle copy.



The Group will meet over coffee/tea on one morning per month in one of the rooms in the Muthill Parish Church to review the chosen book (probably for about one and half hours)

The Club will be open to anyone (men and women) interested within the congregation and the village.

If you are interested please contact Sandy Hutchison (07825544225) or Val Hadden (0735659791) to let them know of your interest and to receive further information. It is planned that the Group will meet informally to confirm the first book at the beginning of November.

## Kirk And Community News

### Wardside House For The Elderly



Whilst not a member of Muthill Parish Church, Kenneth Graham was a well-known face at church services in Muthill sitting in the front row along from the organist. In the latter days of his life he chose to move into Wardside House for the Elderly and so he was able to continue regular Sunday worship in church up until very nearly the end of his life. Kenneth sadly died on 27th July and a Thanksgiving Service for his life was held at Auchterarder Parish Church on 28th August. At this commemorative service, tribute was paid to his considerable success in business life and his great interest in supporting charitable work such as the Salvation Army and Cancer Research. He was also the coordinator and main fundraiser behind the restoration of the organ in Auchterarder Parish Church.

The Church Singing Group will be organising a Singalong at Wardside House on Tuesday 17th October at 2.30pm then carol singing on Thursday 14th December at 7pm. We also hope to restart regular worship services at the Home soon.

### Christmas Decorations for the Village



As announced in the last edition of the Bridge, through the work of Corrina Robertson and the members of the Tullibardine and Muthill Community Council, Muthill has acquired illuminations for the village to go alongside the Christmas tree and other displays. You will see an advert on page 17 which gives details about the switch on.



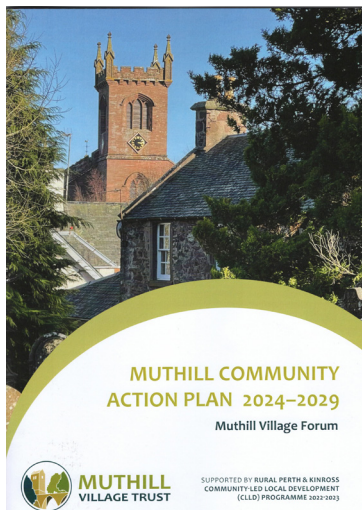
## Community Hub

A further public consultation on the proposed new Community Hub has been held on the latest plans prepared by the architects engaged on behalf of the Village Forum for the chosen option of Coronation Park. Two proposals for Coronation Park were presented and views of the village were sought on the alternatives with a closing date of 1st September.



Option 1 provides for a new Hub, football pitch, parking and a skateboarding area whilst retaining the current playground area. Further details on the consultation, seeking planning permission and fundraising plans are available from the Village Trust ([www.muthillvillagetrust.org](http://www.muthillvillagetrust.org)).

## Community Action Plan 2024-2029



All residents have now received the new Community Action Plan (2024-2029) prepared for Muthill Village Forum by the MuthillVillage Trust. This is an interesting booklet which provides helpful data from the consultations with village residents who participated. It encapsulates a statement on the current perceived village status, progress on items raised in the previous Community Action Plan (2018-2023), a vision for the future of the village, its perceived values, details of issues that matter to residents and, finally, the shared priorities for projects and action.

Congratulations should go to all who have been involved in this major exercise and as is stated in the new Community

Action Plan it is hoped that all organisations involved will work together to progress the priorities of the Action Plan.

## Kirk And Community News

### St. James Episcopal Church

Stonework renovation is taking place across the road at our neighbouring church of St James from 10th September for a period of six weeks. This is to ensure the continued safety of pedestrians and to maintain the building's structure. This, of necessity, involves scaffolding on the west gable into the adjoining lane which will be closed to traffic during the period of renovation. St. James and Drummond Estates apologies for any inconvenience caused during this period.



St. James have also told us that readers of The Bridge are welcome to join them at a series of film nights the next of which will be held in St. James Church, Muthill at 7pm: Tuesday 14th November: ... The Seduction Of Nostalgia

The sessions will include watching the whole film, some of which will be well known blockbusters, whilst others will be lesser known possibly foreign language or art-house. Then, after the showing, there will be a chaired discussion on the film, its themes, character and storyline led by Duncan Strathie, Rector.

St. Kessog's and St. James are also holding a series of study evenings exploring the New Testament. These will be held at St. Kessog's in Auchterarder starting on Monday 23rd October at 7pm.

### Muthill Sportive

This annual event took place on Saturday 9th September. This year, it was blessed with great weather and no need to cancel and change date as happened last year. As always, there was a great turn out for the different cycle runs on offer and the start hub with bike repairing and lots of great home baking was as usual in the grounds of Muthill Parish Church. Proceeds from this year's event will go to support development of the proposed 50m span bridge across the River Earn just south of Crieff. This will provide a safe cycling route into Crieff from the outskirts of Muthill.



## Village Christmas Fair



This year's Muthill Christmas Fair will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday, 25-26th November, between the hours of 10.30am-2.30pm. There will be plenty of stalls and Santa's post box will be present on each day.

The Christmas lights will also be switched on from 3pm on Saturday 25th November.

**So plenty of festive fun!**

## Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met for its regular meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September and the following can be reported:

- With the increase of energy costs the cost of church heating and general electricity usage is likely to rise from around £3000 pa to over £8500 pa. To try and reduce this somewhat, the Kirk Session has approved the installation of loft insulation. This work has now been carried out at a cost of £11,850
- The Kirk Session has accepted that we need to work harder on attracting families and youth into the congregation. A sub-committee has, therefore, been set up to further consider ideas for this important mission and will be reporting to the next Kirk Session meeting
- Three new elders are to be appointed and will be ordained on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.
- The Church will be working on two new outreaches to supplement the work of the soup and sandwich lunches, namely a Book Club and Men's Group
- Further combined work with St. James Episcopal Church is being explored

### Church Family Day Out



Those who participated in the church family away day to Aberdour beach had a great time even though numbers were smaller than anticipated. Selecting a rendezvous near the café and within easy access of the Silver Sands beach and the parkland behind was perfect.



The group enjoyed refreshments from the café as well as great barbecued food prepared on site by Adrian Davidson and his trusty much travelled BBQ set. There was also some scrumptious fruit sponges baked by Vivian Donaldson. However, in case you think it was all eating and snoozing, it was not! The group played boules, French cricket and one or two even had a walk along the shoreline path to Burntisland. The weather was dry and overcast, so not as sunny as hoped, but with jerkins, comfy seating and the ever changing panoramic view of the firth of Forth with Edinburgh, Arthur's Seat, North Berwick Law and Inchcolm in the background, it was a fine spot to enjoy a few hours away as a church group and have great fellowship. Thanks are due to Adrian and Elaine for organising arrangements for the day. It is hoped that this will become an annual away day.

### Inter-Church Praise Gathering

Another Praise Gathering of the Inter-Church House Groups was held in St Columba's Episcopal Church, Crieff, on the evening of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. These gatherings are gaining in momentum and, once again, Chris White was at the helm in leading the worship with the theme "Jesus is Lord".

## Perth Presbytery

The new much-expanded Perth Presbytery met at St Mathew's Parish Church, Perth, on 2nd of September. Much of the business continues to be related to the settling-in process of the enlarged governing body which now covers an area from Angus to Stirlingshire. To grasp the size of the body there were about 150 attending this meeting. In future additions of The Bridge we intend to report developments from that body which are of relevance to Muthill and the Strathearn area. Of interest from this meeting is that Presbytery received and approved proposals for the establishment of a new Mission Fund, details of which will be sent out soon to all congregations. Awards from the fund are intended to be used for activities with a revenue focus, such as events, equipment, staffing and volunteering costs, training and development. Disbursements will start in 2024.



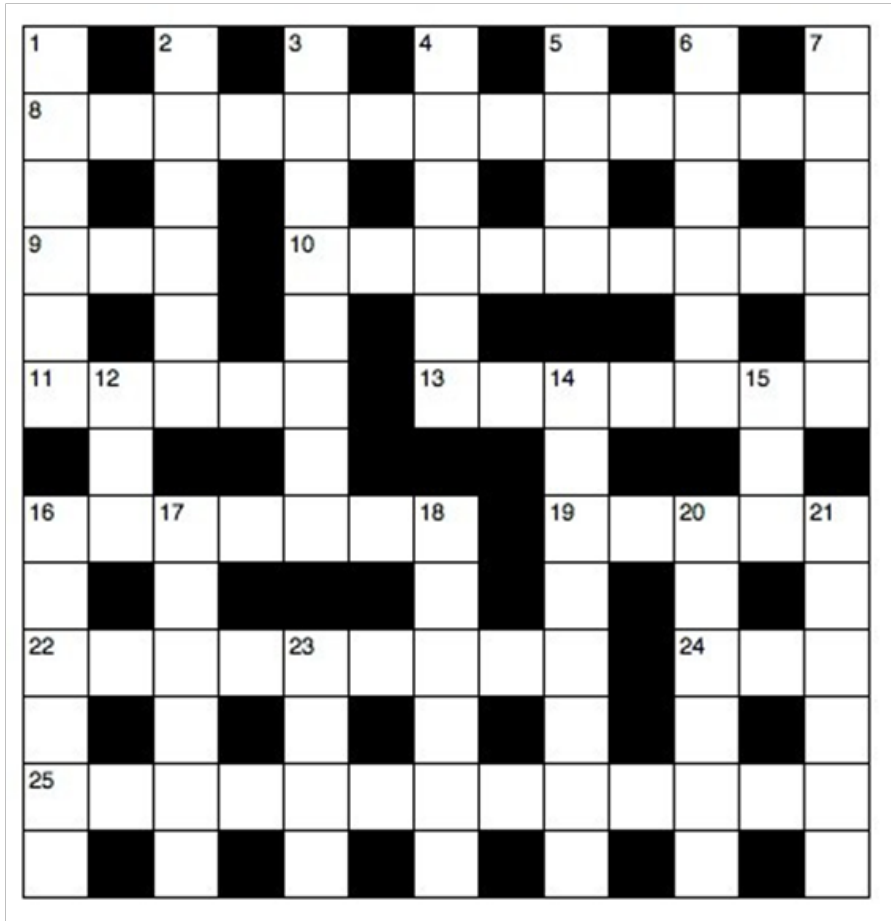
There was also presentation on "The Pioneering Programme" which is a new programme tried out within the Church of England and designed to reach out to the unchurched. There is now a Pioneering Team within Perth Presbytery and it is hoped that they will be able to help in following up with individual congregations as this programme is further explored.

## Harvest Thanksgiving at Glen Artney

Sadly this year's harvest thanksgiving service at the beautiful wee church in Glen Artney had to be cancelled due to flooding and access being very difficult. It should have been led by members of the Muthill House Goup 2 with the Singing Group singing two songs. This cancellation was disappointing for all those involved. We thank everyone for their preparation not forgetting those who kindly offered to make tray bakes for the teas and coffees after the service. It does, however, give us the opportunity to publicise Harvest Thanksgiving at Muthill Parish Church which will take place on 22nd October at the new time of 10.00am



# Crossword



## Across

8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)

9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)

10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have

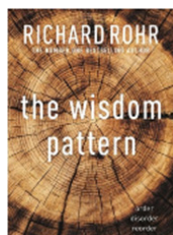


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- ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)  
13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)  
16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)  
19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)  
22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)  
24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)  
25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)  
2 See 24 Across  
3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)  
4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)  
5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)  
6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)  
7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)  
12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)  
14 Second city of Cyprus (8)  
15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)  
16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)  
17 Braved (anag.) (6)  
18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)  
20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)  
21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)  
23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

## Book Reviews



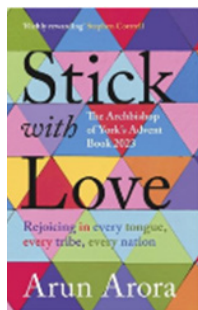
### **The Wisdom Pattern – order, disorder, reorder**

**By Richard Rohr, SPCK, £12.99**

A universal pattern can be found in all societies and in fact in all of Creation. We see it in the seasons of the year, the stories of Scripture, and even in our own lives.

In *The Wisdom Pattern*, Father Richard Rohr illuminates the way understanding and embracing this pattern can give us hope in difficult times and the courage to push through messiness – and even great chaos – to find a new way of ‘being’ in the world.

Father Rohr offers reflections in *The Wisdom Pattern* that bring together a deep spirituality with Jungian psychology. They reveal a vision of Christianity that speaks to the heart of 21st century society.



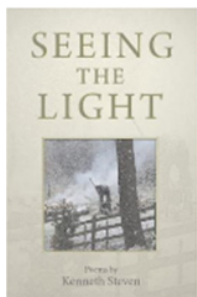
### **Stick with Love - Rejoicing in Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation**

**The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023**

**By Arun Arora, SPCK, £10.99**

Martin Luther King famously declared that ‘I have decided to stick with love... Hate is too great a burden to bear’. In these luminous daily readings, Arun Arora helps us consider the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation. Themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome are explored alongside the stories of saints from across the globe. Beginning with reflections from Isaiah and Revelation, the meditations lead

us on to consider the missionaries, martyrs and mystics who light our Advent way.



### **Seeing the Light – poems**

**By Kenneth Steven, Canterbury Press Norwich, £10.99**

This new poetry collection from Scottish poet Kenneth Steven captures small moments of revelation or epiphanies, which come unexpectedly as gifts amid the ordinary. An uncleared breakfast table, the sight of someone working outdoors, an old photograph, and the features and sounds of the Scottish landscapes that so inspire his work, all become, in the poet's words, portals to a greater reality: “the small moments that make up the whole story”.

This is the sudden ‘going through the door’ into the bigger

world. Many of them are written in the sonnet form, whose brevity and economy of expression mirror the essence of this book, and whose very form turns from the ordinary to the extraordinary in a moment.



**One - Being United to Jesus Changes Everything**  
**By Clive Bowsher, 10Publishing, £8.49**

The 'you will' sayings of Jesus show how the living God works in believers' lives, with implications for beauty, worship, obedience, nearness and intimacy, purpose, heaven, freedom, prayer, and love.

Knowing God isn't a hard problem for us to solve; it's a dazzling and thrilling reality for us to dive into.

You can know and experience in-one-another love with the Son, a love so close that it exceeds all expectations. He reaches out, befriends, comes close, partners, makes alive,

Fathers, and invites: Jesus is "inviting you to jump right in!"



**The Manual - getting masculinity right**  
**By Al Stewart, 10Publishing, £11.04**

Understanding what it means to be male has never been more confusing. As more male behaviour is called out for being patriarchal or toxic, how does a man navigate these waters? What does healthy masculinity even look like, and what examples are there of good men that can be followed? This book explores many of the issues that men struggle with: what it means to be a healthy son, workmate, friend, single man, husband and father. It works through much of the current debate on masculinity and finds helpful advice from

many experts.

But most importantly, it works through what the Bible has to say about men, and how being a follower of Jesus is central to living a life the loves and serves others.



**Enjoying God - experience the power and love of God in everyday life**

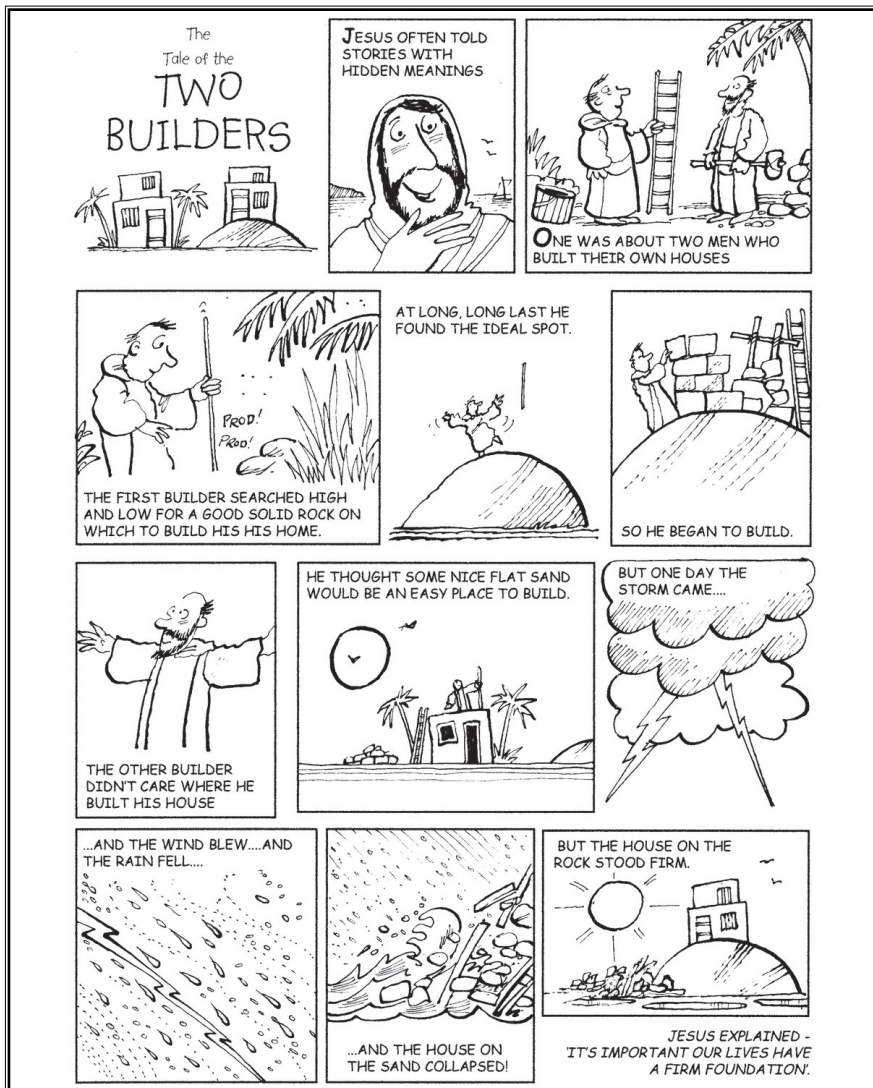
**By Tim Chester, 10Publishing, £8.38**

We believe in God, we serve God, we love God – but do we ENJOY God as much as we can? Does our head knowledge translate into affection of the heart? Do we have a meaningful relationship with someone we can't see? Do we feel excited about God every day, in every context?

Tim Chester shows us how to relate to each of the three

persons of the Trinity, and what this looks like in practice. Readers will discover that as we engage more with God, and understand how awesome He is, we can enjoy Him more.

This isn't a book *about* the Trinity. It's a 'how to' book exploring how we relate to God (for which we need a true understanding of the Trinity). In day-to-day life, how do the three persons of the Trinity relate to us, and how do we respond?.





## Bible Bite

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis chapters 41:46 - 45:28

Joseph: sold by his brothers, taken to Egypt,  
now in charge of the stored food as famine  
spreads through Egypt, and beyond...

Joseph's father sent 10 of Joseph's  
brothers to Egypt to buy food.



Joseph saw they did not recognise him.  
He wanted to see his little brother Benjamin.

To prove you are  
not spies, you must  
bring your other  
brother to me...



They needed more  
food so they had  
to take Benjamin  
to Egypt.



Joseph gave them food...



but to test them he  
had his cup put in Benjamin's sack.

Then as they  
went home...



Stop!

You have stolen my  
master's special cup.



It was  
in Benjamin's sack.

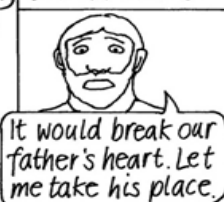
The servant  
took them back  
to Joseph.



You are a thief and  
must stay as a  
slave.



But Judah said



It would break our  
father's heart. Let  
me take his place.

Joseph saw that his brothers had  
changed.



I am your brother Joseph. You  
sold me but God sent me to Egypt.

I can look after you.  
Come and live with me.



So all of Joseph's  
family moved  
to Egypt.



## Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be our Lent and Christmas 2023 edition. The magazine will be published on Sunday 10th December, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be Friday 1st October.

Please submit this to [macahiph@gmail.com](mailto:macahiph@gmail.com) or send to Sandy Hutchison, GreenBrae West, Pitkellony Street, Muthill PH5 2AF.

Please also understand that all articles submitted have to be subject to possible adjustment to suit the balance of the magazine's content and its physical confines. If space does not permit, submissions will be considered for the next edition. All submissions will be acknowledged.

It is our Publishing Policy to publish factual clarifications or corrections in the next edition of the magazine.

The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Kirk Session. Editorial comment and signed articles do not necessarily contain the official views of the Church of Scotland which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.

## Still Wanted

No luck with our last request in the last edition so we are trying again! Does anyone have or know of someone who is disposing of a filing cabinet or office bookcase? We are trying to smarten up the vestry and create a warmer usable space both as a vestry and office.

We are also planning to update and rehang the ministers' pictures and re-carpet the room with a possible touch of paint. So, if you are willing to be part of a working party to complete this renovation, please make it known.

## Useful Contacts

### Useful Local Telephone Numbers

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>NHS 24</b>                 | <b>111</b>  |
| <b>NHS Emergency</b>          | <b>999</b>  |
| <b>Hospitals:</b>             |             |
| Crieff Community Hospital     | 01764653173 |
| Perth Royal Infirmary         | 01738623311 |
| Ninewells Hospital, Dundee    | 01382660111 |
| <b>Crieff Medical Centre:</b> |             |
| Blue Practice                 | 01764652283 |
| Red Practice                  | 01764657060 |
| <b>Crieff Pharmacies:</b>     |             |
| Boots                         | 01764652310 |
| Davidsons                     | 01764652177 |
| Strathearn                    | 01764654876 |
| Torlum                        | 01764652727 |
| <b>Church Of Scotland:</b>    |             |
| Perth Presbytery              | 01738451177 |
| 121 George Street             | 01312255722 |
| <b>Police:</b>                |             |
| Emergency                     | <b>999</b>  |
| Non-Emergency                 | <b>101</b>  |
| Action Fraud Scotland         | <b>101</b>  |
| <b>Schools:</b>               |             |
| Crieff High School            | 01764657600 |
| Crieff Primary School         | 01764657888 |
| Morrison's Academy:           |             |
| General and Secondary         | 01764653885 |
| Primary                       | 01764657196 |
| Ardvreck School               | 01764653112 |
| <b>Veterinary Practice:</b>   |             |
| Crieff Vets                   | 01764652086 |

### Crossword Solution:

ACROSS::

8, KiriathJearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph

DOWN: 11, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



There are various definitions of a Mission Statement but in essence a Church Mission Statement is a broad statement, set out in clear and simple terms, which seeks to explain why we exist as a Church and what we hold dear in driving us forward

### **Muthill Parish Church**

aims to be

A place to find peace and welcome

A people growing in Christian faith and love

A presence at the heart and soul of the community

**Church Website:** [www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/muthillchurch>

**Email:** [muthillparish@outlook.com](mailto:muthillparish@outlook.com)

### **Magazine Graphics & Cover Photo**

Our cover picture theme this month is of a harvest field near Muthill. Thanks to Raffie for providing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production.”

Registered Scottish Charity

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984